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### What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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# WHAT'S NEWS

## AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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May 10, 1999

### Outstanding seniors honored at Cap and Gown Convocation

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor



You could tell it was going to be a joyous affair at the 1999 Cap and Gown Convocation at Rhode Island College May 5.

The packed Roberts Hall auditorium, which included the Class of 1999, cheered and applauded even *before* the National Anthem was sung by senior Sarah A. Martini and, of course, afterwards as well.

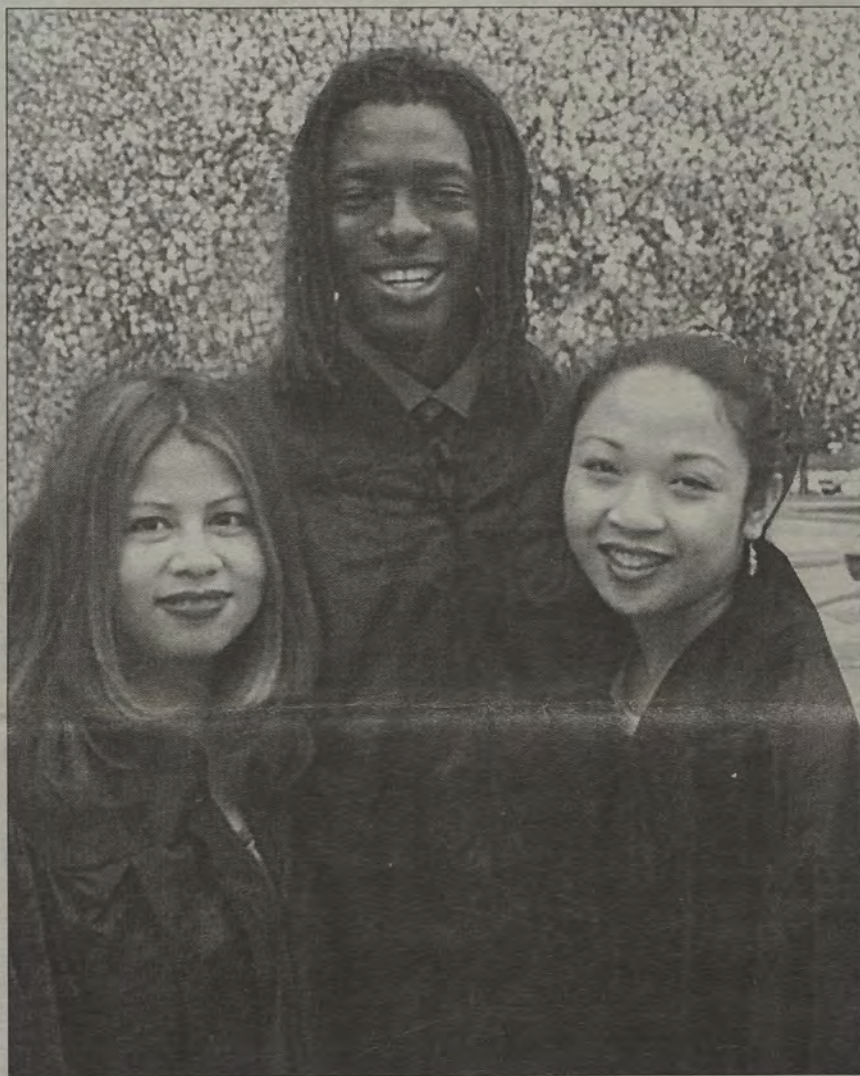
Cheers rose again and again as President John Nazarian and senior class member Jason Anthony, who spoke for the class, brought greetings to the graduating seniors, who were decked out for the first time in their academic regalia.

The convocation annually kicks off the commencement season at RIC, now in its 145th year.

Family members and friends of the class joined College administrative officers and department chairs or their representatives to honor outstanding graduates with a record number of awards.

Several of the honorees were students who chose to complete their undergraduate education simultaneously with raising a family, starting a career or returning to college after an absence of some years and in almost all instances they did so with perfect or near-perfect academic averages.

See Cap and Gown, page 6



**ARRIVING CAPLESS:** Three seniors arrive at Roberts Hall for Cap and Gown Day ceremonies May 5. From left are Doranya Sao, Sidi Gueye and Mali Siharaj. It is a tradition at the College that seniors do not don their mortarboards until Cap and Gown ceremonies. For more photos, see pages 6 and 7. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

### MJSA and RIC to reveal state's newest jewel at ribbon cutting

by Shelly Murphy  
What's News Editor

Rhode Island College, which has played an integral role in the education and training of jewelry designers and craftsmen for years, is poised to expand its impact within the state's vital jewelry industry through a partnership with the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America (MJSA). On May 24 at 1:30 p.m., the ribbon will be cut to reveal the state's newest jewel — a state-of-the-art jewelry industry training and educational facility, located in the Art Center on the RIC campus.

This unique facility is a collaborative effort, blending the strengths, talents and resources of the College and of the MJSA, a professional trade association which represents American jewelry manufacturers and their suppliers. College President John Nazarian and James F. Marquart, president and CEO of the MJSA, will officially open the facility, which houses about \$80,000 in new equipment donated by MJSA members or purchased with grant money.

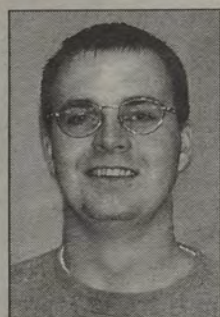
"This facility is a shining example of what higher education and industry can accomplish together. This collaboration will make state-of-the-art equipment and classes taught by talented and knowledgeable college faculty available for students just entering the field and for individuals working in the field who are seeking continuing education and advancement," said John Salesses, vice president for academic affairs.

"All of the students benefit from the location of this facility on a college campus. The College students gain practical knowledge and insights, and professional contacts from learning side-by-side with individuals who are currently working in the industry. The veterans benefit from exposure to the talent and energy, and the creative and intellectual challenge inherent in an academic environment. Success in the continuing education classes in a college environment may encourage these individuals to continue their education beyond the initial courses," Salesses said.

The facility will provide hands-on training for aspiring crafts people and industry veterans, creating a career ladder for jewelry manufacturers. The education modules, slated to begin this fall, will focus on electro-chemical, castings, findings, and related machining, soldering and welding, and finishing techniques. Students completing the training modules will be eligible for

See Ribbon cutting, page 10

### In their own words...



Christopher Williamson

Class of 2000

Recipient of:  
RIC Alumni  
Departmental  
Scholarship

Goals. I was unsure of the connotation of this word when I entered Rhode Island College. In the past three years it has grown clear.

I have developed personal and social

See Alumni scholar, page 8

### Faculty promotions, tenure announced

College President John Nazarian recently announced faculty promotions and tenure and hosted a reception in their honor Friday, May 7, at the President's House.

Those promoted to the rank of professor and their departments are: Peter Brown, history; Donald Dufour, history; Heemong Kim, art; MacGregor Kniseley, elementary education; Patricia Medeiros Landurand, special education; Peter Meyer, physical sciences; Angela Murphy, nursing; Jeannine Olson, history; Marjorie Roemer, English; Patricia Thomas, nursing.

Those promoted to the rank of associate professor and their departments are: Ellen Bigler, educational studies; Mary Byrd, nursing; Gale Goodwin Gomez, anthropology/geography; Lisa Humphreys, mathematics/computer science; Marc Lamontagne, physical sciences;

Charles Owens, biology; Russell Potter, English; Daniel Scott, English; Raquel Shapiro, Henry Barnard School; Tomoji Shogenji, philosophy; Ying Zhou, mathematics/computer science.

The promotions will take effect July 1.

Ten faculty members have been granted tenure, effective July 1 of the year indicated.

They are: Ellen Bigler (1999), English; Mary Byrd (1999), nursing; Gale Goodwin Gomez (1999), anthropology/geography; Lisa Humphreys (1999), mathematics/computer science; Marc Lamontagne (1999), physical sciences; Annmarie Mumm (2000), School of Social Work; Russell Potter (1999), English; Daniel Scott (1999), English; Tomoji Shogenji (1999), philosophy; Ying Zhou (1999), mathematics/computer science.



# The Way We Were...

This popular item in *What's News* will continue this year in order for you to be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.



**DAISY CHAIN:** For this first issue of May 1999, we go back to May 1940, when it was a tradition at Rhode Island College of Education for students to go out to the fields in spring and gather daisies for an enormous chain that was carried in the College's May Day celebrations. Above, members of the Class of 1942 carry the "Daisy Chain" down the steps of the now-demolished Normal School building in downtown Providence. Leading the procession is Lorena Ward Murphy, who later (from 1979 to 1986) became a member of the R.I. Board of Regents. To her left is Barbara Ryan Duffy. (Photo Courtesy of Lorena Murphy)

## RIC Commencement Season

Graduate Ceremony  
Thursday, May 22  
5:30 p.m.

New Building  
Undergraduate Ceremony  
Saturday, May 22  
9:30 a.m.  
Esplanade

*Congratulations Class of 1999!*

## WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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## Focus on Faculty and Staff



**Anthony Antosh**, director of University Affiliated Programs (UAP), and **David Sienko**, program coordinator of the Rhode Island Transition

Independence Employment (RITIE) project, have received a grant from the state Department of Education for \$364,484 for Transition Services to Disabled Youth. RITIE, a sub-grantee of the UAP, is designed to create and coordinate an environment in the state where students and families are encouraged, supported and assisted in choosing and planning their futures, moving toward independence and achieving full community integration in living, working and socializing.

**Len West**, adjunct professor of educational studies, was an invited presenter at a statewide workshop for in-service school teachers held at the Community College of Rhode Island. His interdisciplinary presentation explored curriculum and instruction strategies to stimulate students' imaginations, encourage their individual interests and develop self-directed life-long learning practices through the use of national, state and community educational resources available to the public.

**Audrey Olmsted**, assistant professor of communications,



presented a paper entitled "Voices from the Bottom: Critical Race Theory as an Educational Model," at the 1998 meeting of the Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society. The conference was held in Lexington, Ky.

Four faculty members and the dean of the School of Social Work attended the Council on Social Work Education annual program meeting last month in San Francisco. **Mary Ann Bromley**, **Nancy Gewirtz** and **Dan Weisman** gave a paper entitled "Welfare Reform: Making the Case for Multidimensional Social Work Organizing Strategies." Gewirtz and Weisman also presented a paper on "Exemplary Models of Building Bridges Between the University and Community to Enhance Practice." These two papers were reports on the School of Social Work's ongoing involvement in the development and evaluation of the state's new welfare reform program. Weisman gave another paper, "Civil Liberties and Aging: Evolution and Devolution," adapted from this article in the current issue of the *Journal of Law and Social Work*. **Rosalind Kopstein**, a faculty member in the School of Social Work, attended the conference as a member of the Commission on Disability and Persons with Disabilities. Dean **George D. Metrey** attended as a member of the National Association of Deans and Directors and CSWE's Commission on Accreditation.

An article written by **Christine Mulcahey Szyba**, assistant professor in the Henry Barnard School, was published in the January issue of *Young Children*, a publication of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The article, entitled "Why do some teachers resist offering appropriate open-ended art activities for young children?" was recently selected for reprint in *First School Years*, a professional journal of the Jewish Early Childhood Association.

**Rachel Filinson**, professor of sociology and coordinator of the gerontology program, has recently published articles relating to health and gerontology issues in several journals. Her article, "A Cross-National



Test of Propositions from the Neo-Pluralist Perspective on Social Security Expenditures," (written with **Roger Clark**, professor of sociology) appeared in the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*. Another article, "Consumer Empowerment through Education" was published in the journal *Educational Gerontology*. A third article, "The Impact of the Community Care Act — Views from the Independent Sector," was published in *Health & Social Care in the Community*.

**Gene E. Paranzino**, an adjunct faculty member of special education, gave a presentation entitled "Reading Recovery and Curriculum-Based Measurement: Direct, Ongoing Evaluation of Reading Achievement" at the National Reading Recovery Conference in Columbus, Ohio in February. The presentation provided an overview of curriculum-based measurement and how it can be used to assist Reading Recovery teachers in identifying low achieving first-graders and to monitor the progress of current and former Reading Recovery students in general education materials. Paranzino discussed research that she is conducting with Michelle Gilbert Shinn, coordinator of the Early Childhood Research Institute on Growth and Development at the University of Oregon. Paranzino's article "Curriculum-Based Measurement at the Westall School in Fall River, Massachusetts," will appear in the spring newsletter of the Massachusetts Urban Project.

**Ben Lombardo**, professor of health and physical education, participated in a symposium entitled "Kindness and Sport: The Fragility of Goodness," sponsored by AIESEP and Endicott College in April. Lombardo also presented a paper entitled "Kindness in Sport: The Role of the Coach." Approximately 50 students, professionals and researchers from various disciplines were in attendance.





# Prof. Bracey: 'Racism distorts your view of the world'

by Shelly Murphy  
What's News Editor

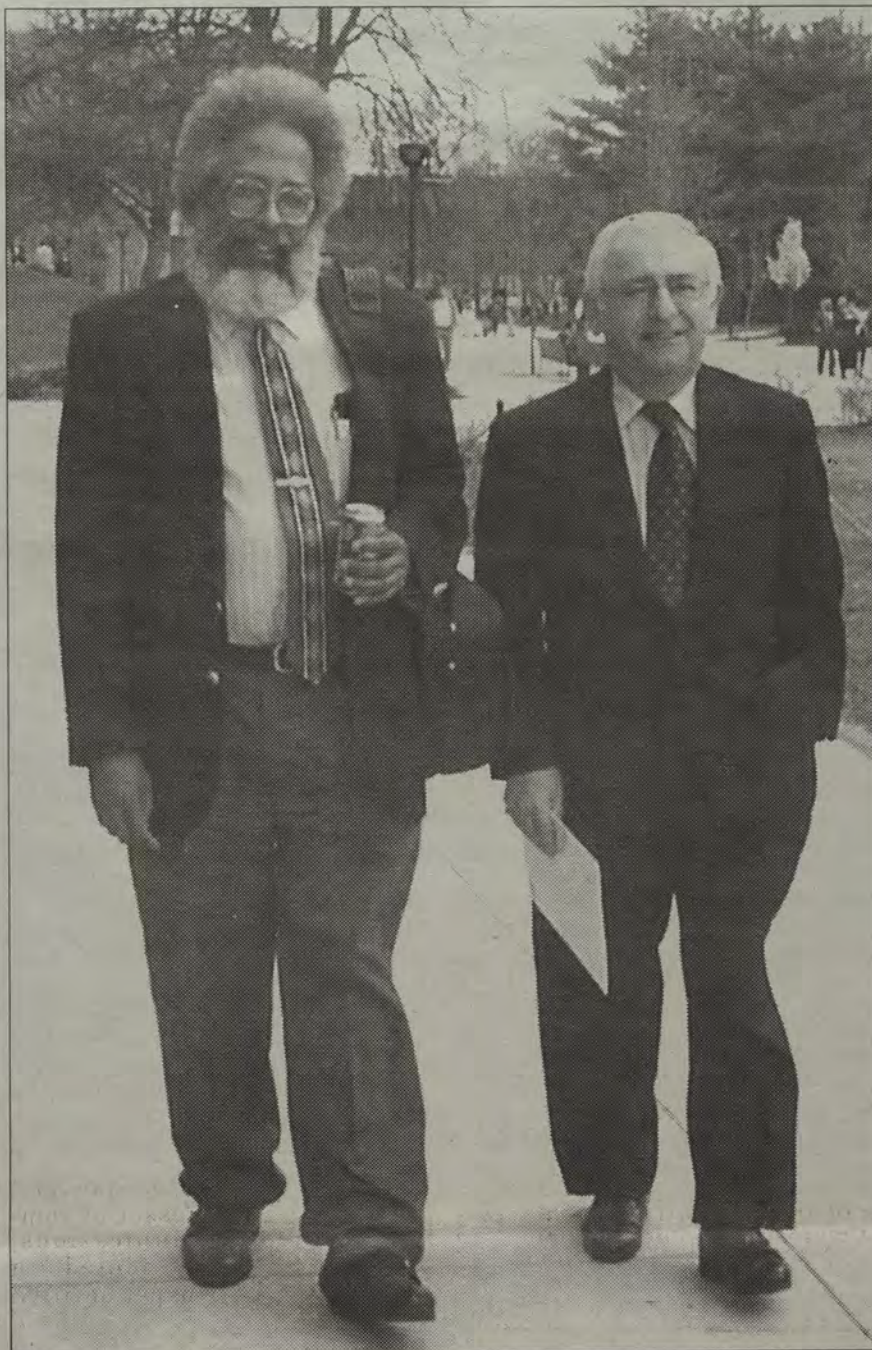
With an engaging mixture of humor and storytelling, John H. Bracey Jr. challenged about 125 students, faculty and community members to take a close look at the "Cost of Racism to White America" in the Rhode Island College Dialogue on Diversity Committee's fourth annual spring symposium.

Bracey, a professor in the W.E.B. DuBois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, delivered a thought-provoking address on April 21, imploring the audience to confront misconceptions about racism and its impact on society as a whole, historically and currently. In just under an hour, he covered the gamut of topics: slavery, public schooling, democratic representation, affirmative action, violence and even sports.

"The most lasting consequences of the introduction of slavery to this country and the failure to deal with the legacy of slavery is the militarization of our society, the arming of America," he observed, just days after the tragedy in Littleton, Colo., when two high school students shot and killed 13 of their classmates in a rampage.

He illustrated how guns and violence became part of the American culture from the very beginning. "The Europeans landed in a country that happened to be inhabited by people. They armed themselves to take the land. In order to work the land, they imported slaves. Most people understand that if you exploit people and take away their freedom, they might get upset and might do anything to get out of the situation, including killing you."

So it was prudent to arm themselves "and for every white American to know how to use a gun," Bracey said. "Once you get used to the notion that the way to run society is through arms, it's hard to get it out of the society. Look at the areas that are the most armed today, the former slave states in the South and the ones on the Mexican border because (settlers) took their land



**DIVERSITY SPEAKER John Bracey (left) walks to Gaige Hall auditorium with College President John Nazarian to deliver an address on April 21. Bracey, professor of sociology and African-American studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, spoke on "The Cost of Racism to White America." (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)**

and they might want it back. Look at the guns on the back of trucks in the South. You don't see guns hanging from Volvos or Subarus in Boston."

"What kind of society defines citizenship as being able to kill some-

one?" he asked rhetorically, recalling how slaves were refused citizenship after the Civil War because military service was necessary to be a citizen. "Slaves ran the plantations while the men were away fighting. They didn't rape and pillage. They took care of the babies, tilled the fields, and sat by the hearth and fed the wife of the former master. They were considered subhuman, but to rise up in anger and kill someone was how you got citizenship. Who's crazy?"

The consequences of taking away rights of citizenship had great impact on white society too, he said. He cites the lack of public schools "because the slaves might learn. So the solution was to keep whites stupid" and the delay in establishing social programs because during "the 20th century you had elected officials working for their own pocket-book, not the people in their district."

For instance, this country did not have social security, aid for women with children, workers compensation, an eight-hour work day until the 1930s. Other countries had these programs in the 1890s, Bracey noted.

Regarding affirmative action, he paraphrased a common argument that affirmative action (in colleges and universities) stigmatizes minorities because they are let in because of their race, not their qualifications.

"If a little bit of affirmative action hurts the black man's psyche, imagine what 300 years of racism has done to the white psyche. If the black American's psyche is hurt because he is accepted into college for the wrong reasons, imagine how confused whites are — they think they are qualified," he declared to a round of laughter and applause.

"The fear behind segregation," he continued, "is if you let me in, I'll do better than you. If I was stupid, you'd let me in and watch me fail. If you let me in and I do better than you, where's white supremacy?"

On a lighter note, he turned to the impact of racism on sports. Jackie Robinson, the first black baseball player to play in the white major leagues, was on the bench in the black league. "He was not even good enough to be a starter in the black league, but he wreaked havoc in white baseball. Racism gets you confused. Babe Ruth was the greatest of the white baseball players, not the greatest baseball player," he said. "Racism distorts your view of the world."

The cost to society is continual, he said, noting the public expenditures to "contain the black population. (Society) would rather spend \$20,000 to put a black man in prison rather than \$5,000 to give him a scholarship to college" so he can become educated and get a good job. "When you look at the money spent on prisons, you could have given half of that money to the blacks and said don't do anything wrong and spend the rest to fix school buildings and buy more books for the library," Bracey said.

In summary, he noted, "The goal of any kind of discussion like this is to be able to see your face in the face of every human being on this planet. If you can't do that, there will be problems. You must see yourself and treat them like you would want to be treated rather than saying *those people*."

Following Bracey's remarks, Frank Graham, publisher of the *Providence American*, and Carolina Bernal, of Progreso-Latino, delivered brief responses before the break-out workshop sessions began.

Graham noted that there are lessons to be learned and we haven't learned those lessons. "There are instances where people are getting along pretty well. We need to learn how they are doing that. For instance, when we send troops to Bosnia, it's a multi-cultural force. We are sending a message to Bosnia, 'We've worked it out here.' What we've failed to say is that the military is trained to get along. We are not privy to that training. We should be bombarded with that," Graham said.

Bernal commented that white supremacy continues in Rhode Island. "The low-income and poor Hispanics tell us how they are treated by temp agencies. We are destroying our own home, our society. We are sending troops to Bosnia to teach them to honor life, but we don't even do it in our own community," she concluded.

The topics and presenters for the workshops that followed were: "Political Correctness and Classroom Use of Language," Ray Rickman, Channel 36 "Bestsellers" host; "Classrooms have Closets: Gay and Lesbian Lives in Education," Michael Gorman, RIC resident hall director; and "Whiteness and White Privilege — A Conversation," Bracey.



**TEACHER JOB FAIR: The fifth annual Teacher Job Fair April 22 at Johnson & Wales Inn, Seekonk, Mass., brought representatives from 65 schools from throughout the country to interview over 300 students from seven Rhode Island colleges and universities. Heather Alexion (above) of Smithfield, a Rhode Island College language arts major, interviews with Lyman Goding of the Plymouth, Mass., school department. "Many of the recruiters gave us excellent reviews on the fair and most particularly the calibre of the students who attended," reports Phyllis Hunt, of the RIC Career Development Center. (What's News Photo by George LaTour)**



# Students gain insights through urban experience course

by Shelly Murphy  
What's News Editor

For the second consecutive summer, Elizabeth Henshaw, assistant professor of elementary education, is leading a group of future teachers on an exploration into territory where up to 64 different languages are spoken and many diverse cultural expectations co-exist.

Beginning May 25, Henshaw will take a group of summer school students on a two-week journey into this intriguing multi-cultural microcosm of society. The goal is for students to gain understanding and insights about the realities of this environment and the people who work and live there.

During this course the students travel to diverse and unfamiliar venues as far away as the Rhode Island Training Center and as close as George West Elementary School on Mount Pleasant Avenue, just down the street from the College. While these venues are obviously not far away geographically, that is the point of the course which is entitled Multicultural Perspectives through Urban Experience.

The purpose is to provide education students the opportunity to experience the diversity and richness of the multi-cultural communities right here in Metro Providence to better prepare them to teach within these communities.

After attending a professional development workshop regarding cultural diversity for teachers in the school, Henshaw recognized the need and potential of such a course for students just entering the profession. "So many of the students grew up and live outside urban areas. But they may be looking for jobs in urban areas. It is necessary for them to see the children in a more relaxed and natural atmosphere than in the practicum," Henshaw said.



**DISCUSSING CULTURAL Diversity** with guest speaker Edwina Vold, left, early this semester are seniors Amanda Sequin, Frances Cruz, Joan Toohey, and Kate Birchell. Vold's visit was coordinated by elementary education professors Elizabeth Rowell and Elizabeth Henshaw coordinated the visit which was funded by the first Fenstein Professional Development Grant. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

She moved forward to create and officially establish this intensive, yet relaxed urban experience for students. The class meets for three hours a day, 9 a.m. to noon, from May 25-June 10.

Only the first and last days of class are traditional lectures held on the College campus. The remainder of the classes and the learning take place in the field.

"The students get to know the children, and their families, in the elementary schools. They get to talk to senior citizens in neighborhood centers in these communities to learn about their past and the problems they have faced. They go to the Training Center to meet the students there, because some of them are going to be back in the public schools," Henshaw said.

The elementary schools they will visit include Alfred Lima, Flynn Elementary School and George West

School. "We selected these schools because they have family centers where the parents actually come into the classroom and work closely with the teachers for the benefit of students. The parents help the teachers, and even go into the go to classroom and teach the diverse students about their cultures."

Based on the personal reflections of several of the students who participated in last year's class, the curriculum was on target. "Unfortunately, before taking this course, I had fears about different neighborhoods or types of people. I grew up in a white neighborhood with no crime. I went to Catholic school my entire life. I was surrounded mostly by people who were just like me," wrote Lori Fontana, a student in the class last summer.

"When I told people I was going to Elmwood Avenue or the Training Center, they told me to be careful and

lock my car doors. I think people are so afraid of these places because they have never been there. At first, I admit, I was nervous, but as soon as you meet the children, you realize they are just like children everywhere else," she added.

Susan Lake, another student in the class, shared the strong impact the course had on changing her preconceptions of the inner-city school and student. "I always feared working in Providence. I had misconceptions about inner-city schools having a lot of crime."

"This experience was a great eye-opening experience. The children in an urban setting really want to learn. I have an understanding and respect for these inner-city kids. It's not easy being an inner-city kid. I would hope as a teacher in the Providence School system, I would be a great role model."

All of the students commented on the impact of interacting with the students in the Rhode Island Training Center. "The students and administrators at the Training School really had an impact on me. They mentioned how it only takes ten seconds to change your life. It was sad to hear that often the children had no one to support them. We expect our young children to stay out of trouble, and yet, they have no one to guide them down the right path," Fontana wrote.

"There are so many inner city children in need of someone willing to make a difference in their lives; someone to support them and lead them down the right path. Too often our society closes our eyes to these youngsters because they believe that 'they are not my children' and they do not have any responsibilities for them," she continued. "This class has really helped me to realize that they are all our children, each and every one. They are the future of our country and we should be there to guide them through their journey."

For more information, contact Henshaw at 401-456-8567.

## Luncheon held for 'graduates' of electronic prepress skills training

A luncheon ceremony for the displaced workers at Quebecor, who have been involved for the past three months in electronic prepress skills training in the Center for Management & Technology at Rhode Island College, was held April 30 in Alumni Lounge.

The class participants were left unemployed when the Quebecor plants pulled out of the state, says Lenore D. Collins, an associate professor at the Center, who did a major portion of the training and wrote the training grant and curriculum materials.

An instructor from the Tripp Company in Braintree, Mass., and a prepress supervisor from a local printing company were also involved in the training.

RIC, the Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU), the state Department of Labor and Training, the Rhode Island Printing Industry Coalition (RIPIC) and the AFL/CIO working together "was what made this effort possible" and included a job fair held by RIPIC, resumé assistance by the AFL/CIO, assistance with the state systems and documentation by the Department of Labor and Training, and training by RIC, says Collins.

She reports that these efforts will continue with job placement activities by all involved.



**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION** of electronic prepress skills training at RIC's Center for Management & Technology is presented to George Palazzo of Smithfield (left) by Lenore Collins, an associate professor at the Center, while Michael Sweeney, executive director of the Rhode Island Printing Industry Coalition looks on. A total of 15 former employees of Quebecor received certificates in Alumni Lounge on April 30. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

A portion of the equipment used in the training was obtained from a Champlin Foundations grant. The

Tripp Company also placed some of the equipment used for the training, says Collins.

## Nursing honor society inductees

Fifty nursing students and nine community leaders have been elected to membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The members were inducted through Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large at Rhode Island College.

Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of nurse leaders, scholars and researchers.

Junior students inducted were: Eric Bonus, Susan Boragine, Doreene Carr, Elise Chapman, Amy Correia, Karen Coughlin, Elizabeth Crowley, Lisa Darling, Linda Dix, Claire Emile, Suzanne Fogarty, Brian Girard, Mary Hollis, Angela Lemieux, Denise Manchester, Robin Martellini, Amie Medeiros, Ellen McKenzie, Ian Miller, Marilyn O'Connor, Diane Resendes, Alivia Sarno, Karen Schaefer, Tricia Smith, Beata Sochacka, Laurie Tegen, Teresinha Taveira, Kimberly Wappel, Mary Wright and Angie Wu-Chin.

Senior students inducted were: Bidney Cervera, Wai Ming Cheung, Holly DeSimone, Karen Dodd, Melissa Eaton, Steven Fortin, Kerri Gamboa, Katherine Gouin, Lizbeth Graham, Lisa Hebda, Esther Mensah, Jane Miller, Sarah Nottage, Margaret Papini, Rita Pearson, Mary-Elizabeth Perry, Karen Prew, Tracy Sivo, Joyce Toft and Michael Wilson.

Community leaders inducted were: James Badger, Rosemary Beagen, Diane BiFulco, Jennifer Couri, Christine Hickey, Susan Korber, Youngsin Lee, Karen Mercer and Mary Mowry.



Joint class study by RIC students finds —

## Providence becoming a model for creative development

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

Only 15 years ago the *Wall Street Journal* called Providence "a smudge on the way to Cape Cod."

But today, it's viewed as a "model for creative development among U.S. medium-sized cities," according to a comprehensive study conducted by Rhode Island College students in two classes — State and Local Government and Urban Political Geography.

Today, delegations from cities across the United States visit our state capital for clues on how to develop their own downtown areas, while NBC has developed a new hit TV show bearing the name "Providence," notes Mark T. Motte, assistant professor of geography.



MARK T. MOTTE

The 52 students in his and political science Prof. Francis J. Leazes Jr.'s joint project sought to find the causes for this dramatic shift in status.

The professors took the students on guided walking tours of the central city, conducted interviews with public officials, private investors, developers and real estate agents, and conducted archival research using an array of state, municipal and newspaper sources, among other study tools.

Both Leazes and Motte have long been interested in the dynamics that drive changes in the College's host city and both have published articles on the subject.

This spring, they pooled their resources to take the students on an exploration of municipal politics, public financing, urban policy development, and the emerging geography of the city's Capital Center District and the "New Downtown."

They collaborated to develop an applied research course that would give students insights into the processes by which cities are built and re-shaped.

Both Leazes and Motte gave lectures to their respective classes on the political decision-making process, citizen participation, municipal and state budgetary processes, and urban planning/revitalization strategies.

The students attended forums with mayors of Pawtucket, Cranston and Fall River and Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr.'s policy director.

Students were able to question these local officials "to test whether their reading about theories and models of decision-making coincided with what happens in the real world," says Motte.

The class study yielded "much valuable data" on the contribution that new buildings and urban design projects have made to the revitalization of downtown Providence, reports Motte.

The students found "well over a billion dollars" has been spent on

public improvements to the downtown area in the last 10 years.

"While there has been a lag between public investment and a return on that investment (in terms of jobs and property taxes), private money started to appear on the scene during the mid-to-late 1990s," the students noted.

They found that the public sector — federal, state and local — led the "renaissance," spending funds on the relocation of the railroad and the rivers (the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket); the construction of the river walks and Waterplace Park; the development of the "Civic Center Interchange" and Memorial Boulevard to link the Financial District and Capital Center to I-95 and the Route 6/10 Connector, and the construction of the Convention Center and Westin Hotel.

Other projects examined include the skating rink and redevelopment of Kennedy Plaza, the Masonic Temple and Veterans Memorial Auditorium and the new movie theaters on Washington Street.

The costs to the public sector in participating in the kind of "aggressive economic development" that brought about these changes "have not and will not cease," the students concluded.

Once the public infrastructure was put in place, private investors began to see the potential to make money in Providence, the study found.

To tempt private investment, Providence has signed a series of tax treaties with private corporations wishing to relocate to the city "although many of these new buildings will not pay property taxes at all for a decade or more," according to the findings.

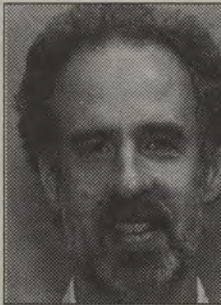
Buoyed by a healthy regional economy throughout the 1990s, builders have found opportunity for commercial and retail development: Citizens Bank (with its new headquarters at One Citizens Plaza), American Express (in One Gateway Center), Commonwealth Development Group (the developers of Providence Place Mall), and the managers of the Harvard Endowment (developers of Center Place condominiums) "all found profitable locations in the Capital Center District."

Oral presentations and final reports were made by the students on May 4 and 5.

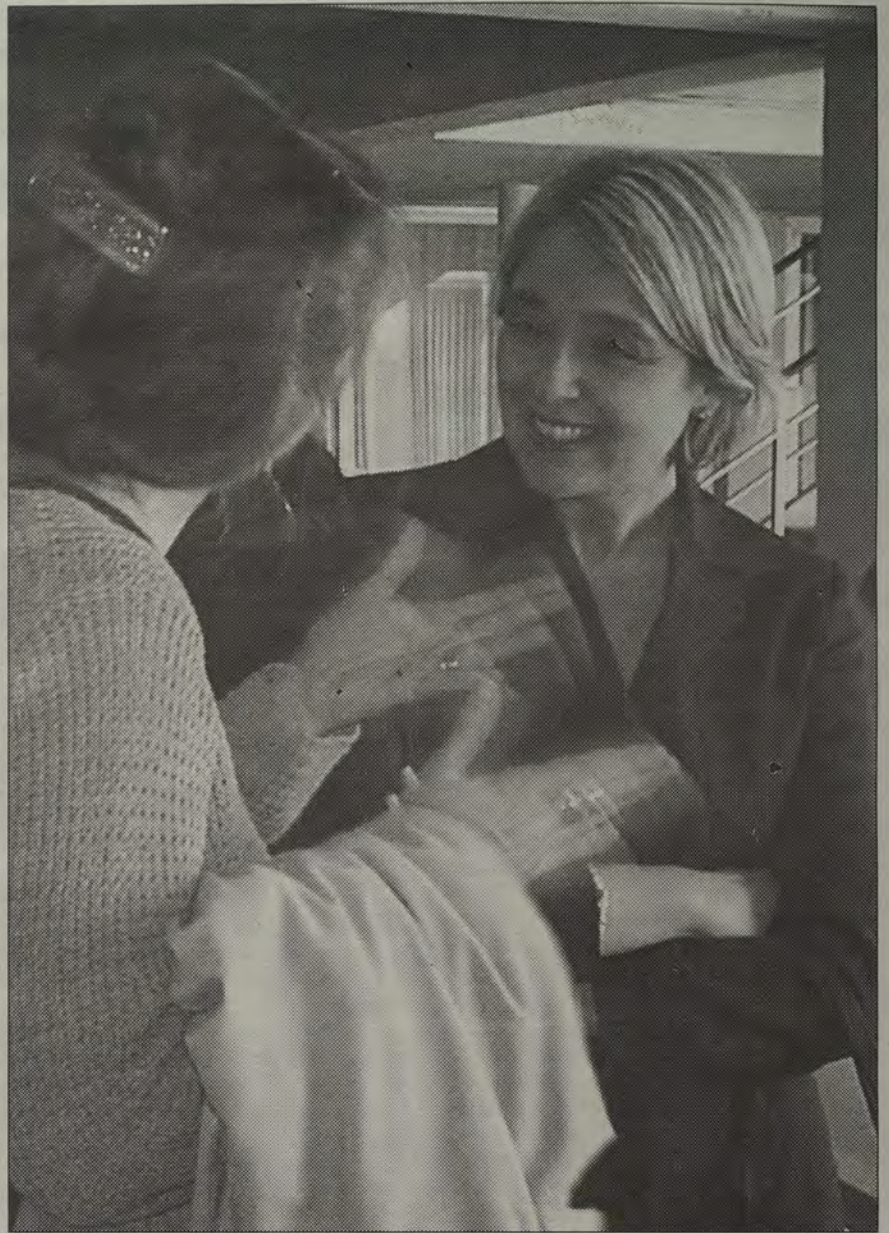
"The most exciting part (of this project) is the cooperation between the two departments (of political science and anthropology and geography). That's a welcome event," says Leazes.

He feels the experience the project provided "has been valuable for the students who have learned how to do this kind of applied urban research."

And that research confirms that the changes to the face of downtown Providence are real (as opposed to merely perceived), substantial and on-going.



FRANCIS J. LEAZES



VISITING AUTHOR Ann Hood talks to an audience member just before a luncheon/talk in the Faculty Dining Center April 20. At the luncheon, sponsored by The Friends of Adams Library, Hood talked about her experiences as a writer and about her latest book, *Ruby*. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## Sigma Xi inducts 10



RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: Anne Marie Fauvel, a candidate in the Masters of Arts in Teaching program, explains her research project to fellow-researcher Tim Pernini, a RIC senior. Fauvel's research tested the toxicity of *Plytolacca Americana* on *Artemia Salina* and *Drosophila* (in laymen's terms: the effect of pokeweed on brine shrimp and fruit flies). (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

On April 30, the annual Sigma Xi poster session was held in the Faculty Center. Sigma Xi is a science research and honors society.

One full and nine associate members were inducted into the Rhode Island College chapter of Sigma Xi, at ceremonies led by incoming chapter president John C. Williams Jr., professor of chemistry, at the annual meeting.

Inducted as a full member is Jane B. Williams, associate professor of nursing.

The nine students inducted as associate members are: Denise L. Collins, Jason P. Durand, Ann M. Fauvel, Jared W. Kostka, William Love, Timothy Pernini, Brian R. Roy, Alberto Savoretti and Rosa Taboada.



# Cap and Gown Day - A RIC tradition



Above: **SPLIT IMAGE:** Before the ceremonies, Amanda Sequin tries on her mortarboard in the decorative mirror of the Alumni Lounge, with the help of Jason Anthony. Sequin received three Cap and Gown awards, while Anthony brought greetings from the Class of 1999. At right: "SLIGHTLY OLDER STUDENT," Paul Pinault (right) receives a James Houston Award in Geography from Prof. George Epple. Below: **CELEBRATING** at the reception in Roberts Hall foyer after the ceremonies are Jay Quinn (left) and Debbie Dunphy, an assistant director in the RIC physical plant.

Continued from page 1

Several "firsts" were noted in the ceremonies, particularly that achieved by senior Amanda Sequin of the College Honors Program. A non-native Spanish speaker, she wrote her senior honors thesis in Spanish, the first in the history of the program to be written in a language other than English.

Sequin, who will be a *summa cum laude* graduate with degrees in early childhood education and Spanish, went on to win the Eleanor M. McMahon Award as the outstanding graduate in the College Honors Program as well as awards in elementary education and Spanish.

"Today is a day for both celebration and reflection as we look back on the long journey of the Class of 1999," said Nazarian, adding that it had been longer for some than for others, which brought chuckles from the students.

"Most of all, it is a day to share in the joy of accomplishment. Each of you has a story to tell; each of you has overcome obstacles in pursuit of your baccalaureate degree. That you have persevered in achieving your goal bodes well for your future," he told the seniors.

Speaking to his classmates, Anthony noted that there had been "a few rough spots" during the years of study at RIC — telephone registration drills, rising book prices and waiting for a parking spot.

"But there's no more waiting because we're graduating!" he exclaimed, bringing laughter and cheers from the students.

He received a standing ovation after he concluded with a quote from "a great legend formerly known as Prince" to wit: "Now we're going to party like it's 1999."

Mark T. Motte, assistant professor of geography, who was selected by the students to deliver the keynote address, said that "College Graduate is a title which commands respect in this society and throughout the world."

"It is a title which puts you on the cusp of achieving great things. It shows others that you can think for yourself, analyze and solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and become a leader."

He urged the seniors, who will receive their diplomas on Saturday, May 22, to be "good listeners, compassionate, aware, tolerant, rigorous by working hard and preserving your integrity, and just."

"Our graduates always seem down-to-earth, honest, motivated and driven by public service rather than by greed. I hope you are proud of that legacy and that you'll contribute to it."

Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, called for those seniors in the audience who had been selected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* to stand for recognition.

John J. Salesses, vice president for academic affairs, assisted by departmental chairs or their assistants, presented departmental awards.

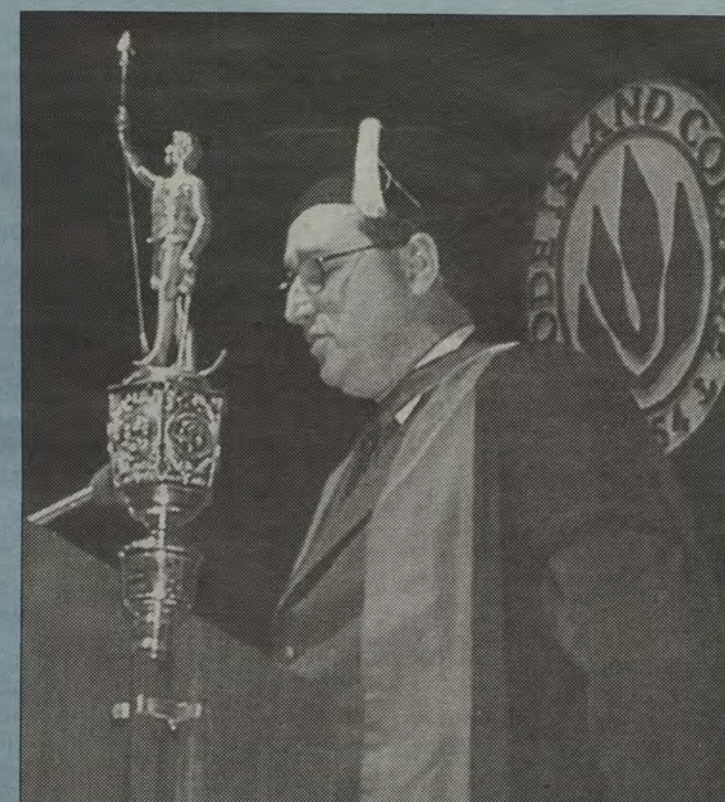
Nazarian led the Cap and Gown investiture.

Other speakers included Aradhana K. Prajapati, class president, who introduced the keynote speaker, and Sara Barkett, class secretary, who provided an introduction to the alumni association.

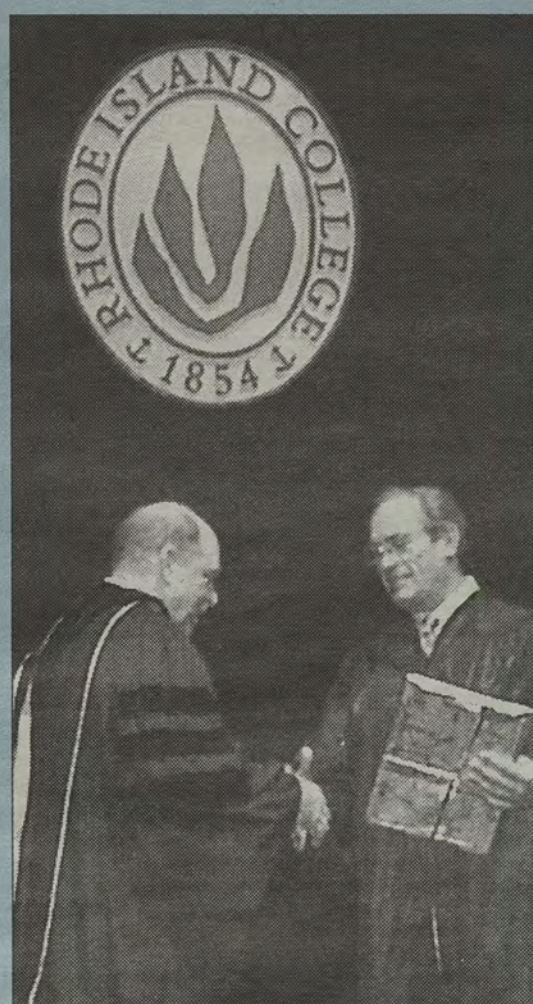
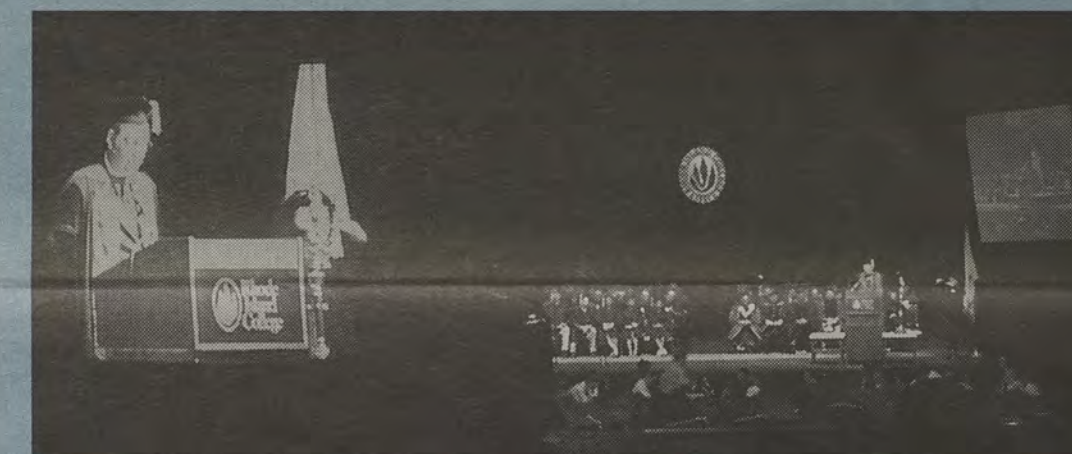
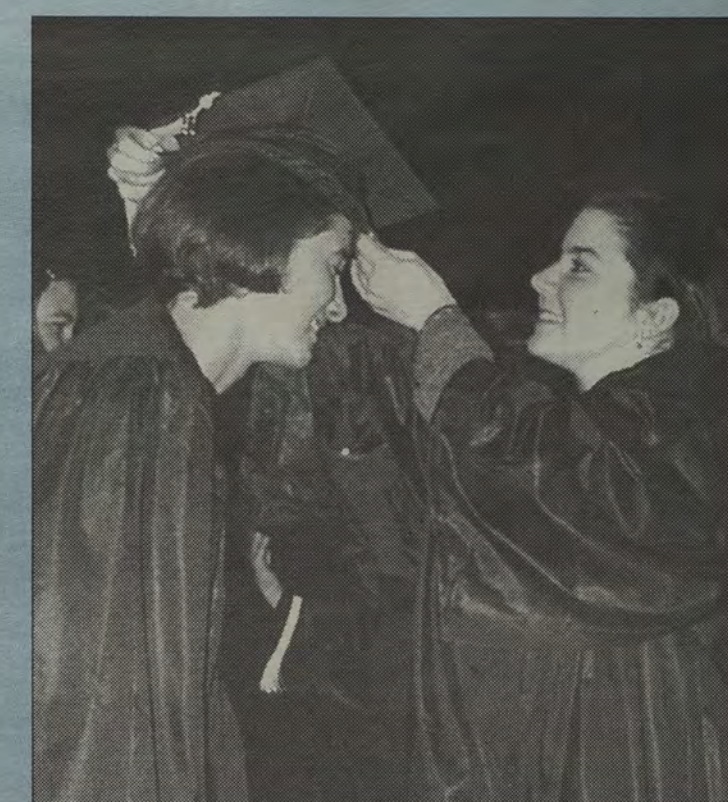
Tia Dong, class vice president and Adam I. Nagle, class treasurer, presented the senior class gift to the College, CD recording equipment.

Nancy Evans, chair of the Council of RIC, was the bearer of the Del Sesto Mace for the processional and recessional. Musical selections were provided by the RIC Wind Ensemble under the direction of Robert H. Franzblau.

A reception, hosted by the College president, followed in Roberts lobby.



Above: **THE MAIN ADDRESS** is given by Mark T. Motte, assistant professor of geography and director of the Study Abroad Program. At right: **DOUBLE IMAGE:** Motte is seen on a closed-circuit television monitor (left) and on the Roberts Hall auditorium stage. Above right: **AT LAST, THE CAPPING:** Becky Iannuccilli (left) is capped by Jaimee McElroy.



Photos and text by  
Gordon E. Rowley

**CAP AND GOWN AWARDS** and their winners: James Houston (Anthropology), Monica Ouellette; (Geography), Hector Cardona and Paul Pinault; Art History, Helene Longpre; Studio Art, Sachiki Okawa; W. Christina Carlson (Biology), Stephanie Corsetti; Theodore Lemesha (Biology), Amy Albuquerque; Eleanor M. McMahon (College Honors Program), Amanda Sequin; Communications Achievement (Telecommunications) Timothy Gaulin;

Also, Educational Studies Senior, Dennis Jutras; Katherine Murray Prize (Educational Studies) Flor de Maria Ribezzo; Elementary Education Faculty, Amanda Sequin; Jean Garrigue (English), Jason Peters; Film Studies Program Faculty, John Mottola; Rose Butler Browne (RIC Foundation), Angela Downing; Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Outstanding Achievement (RIC Foundation), Alicia Rathbun; Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Scholastic Excellence (RIC Foundation), Konstantin Goncharov;

Also, Leonelli Family (RIC Foundation), Lea Colorado; Health and Physical Education Faculty Senior, Jessica Grant and Elizabeth Randle; Claiborne deB. Pell Award (History), Kelly Buckley; Helen M. Murphy (Intercollegiate Athletics), Joy Fox; John Silva Memorial Scholastic (Center for Management & Technology), Monique Marchand; Wall Street Journal (Center for Management & Technology), Lynn Willey; Outstanding Student Awards (Center for Management & Technology), Nathan Paquet (Accounting), Colleen Rogers (Computer Information Systems), Anne Arruda (Industrial Technology), Matthew Leveille (Marketing);

Also, Richard A. Howland Computer Science, Michael Cullen; Christopher R. Mitchell (Math and Computer Science), Ray Shammass; Nelson A. Guertin Memorial (French), Pascale Accocella; (Spanish), Amanda Sequin; Tegu Polyglot (Modern Languages), Roberto Guerenabarrena; Cantor Jacob Hohenemser (Music, Theatre and Dance), Daniel Connaughton; Alice K. Pellegrino Music Education, Aimee Parenteau; RIC Theatre, Sarah Martini; Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance, Stacey Grasso;

Also, Nursing Faculty-Undergraduate, Sherry Matook; Nursing Faculty-Undergraduate Registered Nurse, Sarah Nottage; Thomas R. Howell (Philosophy), Sana Asstafau and Raymond Beland; American Institute of Chemists, Rosa Taboada; Ronald J. Boruch (Physical Sciences), Lise Greenough; Departmental Physics, John DaLomba; John H. Chafee (Political Science), Lynn Farrell; North Providence League of Women Voters (Political Science), Michael Mercier;

Also, Herbert R. Winter for Academic Excellence in Political Science, Alan Mal; Psychology Faculty Senior, Kristin Edmondson; Anthony E. Ricci Social Work Practice, Bernadette Coletta; Mary Ann Hawkes in Justice Studies, Kellie Hewitt; Lauris B. Whitman in Sociology, Deborah Dunphy and Robert Ward; Elisa F. Bonaventura (Special Education), Bonnie Renfrew; Josephine A. Stillings (Special Education), Lori Fontana.



From the study of human physical origins to spiritual destiny —

## This 4.0 anthropology student wants to become a minister

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

**H**ighly motivated learner, student leader, Girl Scout leader, active member of her church and mother of four, Monica J. Ouellette of Lincoln is the 1999 recipient of the James Houston Award in Anthropology at Rhode Island College.

She received the honor at the College's annual Cap and Gown Convocation May 5 as this year's outstanding student in anthropology.

She already had received honors in anthropology for a project entitled "Investigation of the Ancient Meroitic Writing System" and will graduate *summa cum laude* with a perfect grade-point average of 4.0 Saturday, May 22, at RIC's undergraduate commencement.

You might think this outstanding student of anthropology would plan on becoming an anthropologist or perhaps a college professor of anthropology.

Not so.

Ouellette plans to enter the ministry in the United Church of Christ, and has already been accepted as a Fund for Theological Education Ministry Fellow "because of your demonstrated intellectual and personal gifts and your obvious commitment to the Christian vocation."

The monetary award is contingent upon her being accepted into the Master of Divinity program at an institution accredited by the



Association of Theological Schools.

For Ouellette that should prove to be no problem. In her own quiet way, she is determined to succeed and if her track record at RIC is any indication, she will.

She hopes to attend Andover Newton Theological School in the fall.

The Theological Education Ministry has allocated up to \$3,500 for "a creative project in ministry" for the summer of 2000 and allocations of up to \$5,000 a year thereafter to complete her studies.

Asked pointedly why, knowing that she wants to be a minister, she chose to study anthropology.

"Technically, you can get your undergraduate degree in anything and I love anthropology," she explains.

Born in Washington, D.C., she came to Rhode Island in 1977. "My

parents were born and raised here and came back." She studied at Wheaton College in 1982, got married to Arthur Ouellette Jr. in 1983, and then earned an associate's degree in general education from the Community College of Rhode Island. She entered RIC in the fall of 1997.

Ouellette feels her RIC education has been "a good experience" with her anthropology classes being "wonderful." She has high praise for the whole department and for Richard A. Lobban Jr. in particular. Lobban was the advisor for her honors project.

While at RIC she served as vice president of Anthropolos, the anthropology club; did an internship at Roger Williams Museum of Natural History working as the associate curator for cataloging and collections; participated in professional conferences, and presented scholarly papers at the annual meetings of the Northeastern Anthropological Association.

"Her achievements...are astounding," assures George M. Epple, chair of the anthropology/geography department.

Asked if she will have a celebration after graduation, she says, "I hope so. A nice big one is what I'm looking for." She chuckles at her own enthusiasm.

At the commencement exercises her family, including her husband, children Helen, 14; Celina, 12; Ernest, 11; and Thomas, 9, will be there as well as her mother, Lorrie Vezineau, her sister Denise Arruda (another sister, Michelle, is in North Carolina).

It should be quite a celebration!

## Alumni scholar

Continued from page 1

goals as well as a foundation for achieving them.

My most important goal is to successfully complete my education at RIC. This education is not just limited to my academics, but includes other areas.

There are many ways in which I have gone about fulfilling my goals, but the most obvious is my involvement in the many clubs and organizations to which I belong.

When I entered this institution of higher education I was in culture shock. I felt out of place, like it was a big dream. When I became more comfortable, I decided to get involved.

I joined Student Parliament and the Residential Student Association and took on the role of residence assistant in the residence halls. It was in these three positions that I have helped make the atmosphere of RIC more comfortable for students who are experiencing the same culture shock I did in my freshman year.

I have held many different leadership roles which I would like to continue.

In the past I have been treasurer of the Residential Student Association as well as Student Community Government. As a lifeguard at the College Recreation Center, I worked with students to improve their swimming ability. I have been a residence assistant through which I shared my knowledge of the College with the residents.

In the past year I have been president of Student Community Government by which I have represented students on issues at the administrative level.

In addition, I have held two part-time jobs to pay tuition.

This scholarship will allow me to continue to be a resource for students when they feel lost in the world of higher education.

I would like to continue in these leadership roles but do not feel that I can dedicate all of the time necessary and maintain a decent grade-point average.

I would like to give up the two part-time jobs and continue in the other activities, but without some type of aid this will not be possible.

I feel that a scholarship such as this one will help relieve the burden.

## Nutrition lessons brought to life



"TEA & TOAST:" RIC nursing seniors (l & r) Jane Miller and Lisa Hebda perform a skit to introduce a panel on adequate nutrition for the elderly. The panel was one of several Public Policy Presentations by the Class of 1999 sponsored by the nursing department and held in the Student Union ballroom April 27 and 29. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## 25 General Education Honors students to get diplomas in May

Twenty five students at Rhode Island College will graduate this month with General Education Honors, reports Spencer Hall, director of the College Honors Program.

Another four completed their studies last January, bringing the total this year to 29.

Seven of the May graduates also will receive College honors on the basis of having successfully completed a Senior Honors Project in their respective disciplines.

These students, their areas of study and project advisors are: Hope Davis, English, Barbara A. Schapiro; Kristin Edmondson, psychology, David B. Sugarman; Melissa Guillet, art, Curtis K. LaFollette; Nicole Kelly, English, Jon Hauss; Jason Peters, English, Thomas L. Cobb; Amanda Sequin, Spanish, Dix S. Coons; Andrea Ziobro, psychology, Sugarman.

Amanda Sequin is this year's outstanding graduate of the Honors

Program. She was given the Eleanor McMahon Award at the Cap and Gown Convocation May 5.

Sequin wrote her senior project in Spanish on a Spanish poet, a feat Hall says was "a first" for the Honors Program.

Also for the first time this year, the honors graduates discussed their projects with other students and faculty during a session April 29 in Gaije Hall auditorium. A dinner in honor of the students followed in the Faculty Center.

Other students graduating with General Education Honors are: Catherine Ady, Sara Barkett, Kelly Britto, Maryann Castigliero, Bidney Cervera, Heather Davis, Lori Fontana, Krzysztof Krajanski, Sara Lamb and Jaimee McElroy.

Also, Shannon McLaughlin, Sara McMillan, Tracey Mondor, Adam Nagle, Gina Nardolillo, Colleen Rogers, Beth Rupert and Craig Turcotte.

## Service-Learning workshops

The Feinstein School of Education and Human Development is sponsoring two professional development workshops on community service and service-learning in teacher education to be held Friday, May 28, 9:30 a.m. to noon, in Forman Center A; and Friday, June 11, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Faculty Center, South Dining Room.

The workshops will be lead by Jane Callahan, professor of education at Providence College and Northeast coordinator of the National Service-Learning in Teacher Education Partnership.

The workshops are free and open to the public. To reserve space, call by Thursday, May 20. For more information, contact David Brell, 456-8612, or Brian McCadden, 456-9595.



# RIC Athletics

## 11 honored at Statehouse reception

Ten current Rhode Island College student-athletes and one alumna were honored by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) at the first annual Distinguished Student-Athlete Awards Reception, held in the Governor's State Room at the Rhode Island State House on Thursday, April 29.

The event was designed to give significant public recognition to men and women from the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island who have had significant achievements in their academic and athletic pursuits at their respective institutions. The honorees have also demonstrated exemplary citizenship and community service.

Laura DiSano, Chair of RIBGHE Athletics Committee, was the master of ceremonies. Gov. Lincoln Almond and RIBGHE Chair, Sally Dowling, attended the reception.

The Rhode Island College Distinguished Student-Athlete award-winners were: Jessica Arrighi, a sophomore from East Providence who plays women's volleyball; Steve Clarke, a senior from Coventry who plays basketball and baseball; Alicia DeFronzo, a junior from Holliston, MA who is a gymnast and participates in track & field; Joy Fox, a senior from Cranston who plays women's tennis; Joan Hencler, a junior from Warwick who plays women's soccer; Michelle Pelletier, a senior from East Freetown, MA who is a gymnast; Jessica Robitaille, a sophomore from Greenville who plays women's soccer; Nicole Taylor, a senior from Pawtucket who plays women's basketball and tennis; Joe Testa, a senior from Johnston, who plays men's tennis; Kate Wolloff, a senior from Wrentham, MA who plays

women's volleyball.

The RIBGHE also honored a Distinguished Student-Athlete Alumnus from each school. Pawtucket's Margaret "Peggy" Lynch was RIC's award-winner. Lynch was recognized for her outstanding contri-

cal categories. Lynch is currently the Solicitor for the City of Pawtucket and is one of the top female basketball officials in the state of Rhode Island. She was formerly the Assistant to the Rhode Island Attorney General. She is active with the Rhode Island Rape



**STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED:** On April 29 the R.I. Board of Governors for Higher Education held an awards ceremony at the State House for 30 distinguished student-athletes from CCRI, RIC and URI. Also honored were three student-athlete alumni, one from each institution. Above, Kate Wolloff, a RIC senior and volleyball player, receives her award from President John Nazarian. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

butions while a student-athlete at RIC from 1981-85 and, since graduation, her career accomplishments.

She was an outstanding women's basketball player while attending RIC as an undergraduate and still ranks in the top 10 in several all-time statisti-

Crisis Center and the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Lynch is a 1985 graduate of RIC with a degree in management. She received her law degree from Suffolk University in 1988.

## Fox to receive Murphy Award

by Scott Gibbons  
Sports Information Director

Senior Joy Fox has been chosen to receive the Helen M. Murphy Award, which recognizes not only athletic prowess, but also values community and campus involvement. Fox is an excellent women's tennis player and outstanding student as well.

The Murphy Award was established in 1979 and sponsored by the faculty of the Henry Barnard School to honor an outstanding Rhode Island College senior woman athlete. The award is named for Helen M. Murphy, a graduate of Rhode Island College in 1939, who was a member of the faculty for 38 years and taught at the Henry Barnard School, beginning in 1941, until her retirement in 1979.

The Murphy Award is given to a female student-athlete who contributes to RIC athletics and other campus/community activities, demonstrates good leadership skills and shows academic success.

Fox closed out her RIC career this fall with 33.5 career points, the seventh highest total in school history. She is sixth all-time with 26 career singles wins. Fox's .867 career winning percentage is third in school history. She is 12th all-time in career doubles victories. What's even more impressive, is that Fox set all those records in only two years of competition.

RIC Head Women's Tennis Coach Dick Ernst says, "Joy is one of the finest players I've ever coached. Her intelligence on the court is unparalleled. She is a tenacious competitor who always finds a way to win. We'll miss having her on the court next fall a great deal."

This past fall, despite not playing organized tennis in over two years, Fox compiled a singles record of 13-2 and won the number three singles flight at the Little East Conference Championships. She was also 9-5 at number one doubles on the year. The team closed out the year with a 10-2-1 overall

record and a second place finish at the LEC Championships. Fox was undefeated against conference opponents, posting a 5-0 mark on the year. She was also a team captain in 1998.

The two-time LEC champion has enjoyed a true college experience, getting to see and do a lot of different things over the past four years. Fox, who was a winner of a Shinn Study Abroad scholarship in 1997-98, spent

that academic year in Ireland. She has been a regular contributor to *The Anchor* over the past three years.

Prior to traveling to Europe, Fox enjoyed an outstanding sophomore campaign at RIC in 1996. After missing her freshman season due to a broken foot, Fox didn't miss a beat. She was 13-2 and was the number three singles flight champion at the LEC Championships. Her intensity and desire to win catapulted her to the best singles record in school history at that time.

Fox came to RIC after an outstanding career at St. Mary's-Bay View Academy. She was a four-year letterwinner on the tennis team and played number one singles her senior year. She also played softball for three seasons while in high school.

Her cumulative GPA is 3.34. Fox was named a Distinguished Student-Athlete by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) and was recently nominated to receive the ECAC/Robbins Scholar-Athlete Award.



## Sports Roundup

### BASEBALL

The RIC baseball team is 8-18 overall and 2-8 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Scott Perry's team notched a big LEC win, defeating UMASS-Dartmouth 7-6 on April 15.

Ben Libbey is batting a team-high .378 in 26 games. The centerfielder currently has 42 hits, 13 shy of the school record for a single season. Infielder Andy Barron is batting .343 with 10 runs scored and seven RBI in 22 games. Freshman shortstop Frank Kuras and freshman designated hitter Dave Walsh lead the team with 18 RBI apiece.

On the mound, lefty Dennis Soito leads the team with a 3-2 record. Keith Croft is 2-2. Brian Fineberg, Luke Hardiman and Mike Leger each have one win on the year. Hardiman leads the team with three saves.

### SOFTBALL

The softball team is 20-17 overall and 6-6 in the Little East Conference. Head Coach Maria Morin's team has won seven of its last nine games.

First baseman Rachel Medeiros is batting a team-high .365 in 35 games this spring. Medeiros leads the club with 25 RBI on the year. Monique Marchand is batting .293 with a team-high 28 runs scored. Marchand currently has 12 stolen bases on the year, bringing her career total to 40. She needs two more steals to become RIC's all-time leader in that category.

Lea Wiggins is 10-10 with a 1.94 ERA in 144 innings for the Anchorwomen. Wiggins leads the team with 61 strikeouts. Stacy Perruzzi is 6-1 with a 2.39 ERA. Beth Covill is 4-6 with a 2.82 ERA.

### MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team is 4-7 overall and took home second place at the Little East Conference Championships on April 17 with 18.5 points. UMASS-Dartmouth won the LEC crown with 23 points.

Pat Prendergast was the LEC Champion in the number two singles flight. Paul Perry was the LEC Champion in the number six singles flight. Prendergast and Joe Testa were the LEC Champions in the number one doubles flight. Perry and Jon Cheney were the LEC Champions in the number three doubles flight.

Perry leads the team with a 9-4 singles record and a 8-5 mark in doubles. He also leads the squad with 13 points on the year.

### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The women's track and field team placed second at the Alliance Championship hosted by Westfield State College on April 24. Teams from the Little East Conference and the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference took part in the Championship. The women's team totaled 126 points on the day. Westfield State captured the crown with 152 totals points. RIC was the highest finishing LEC school.

11 RIC tracksters were named All-Alliance/Little East at the championship. Crissy McCullah received All-Alliance/Little East honors in five different events. She placed third in both the 400 meter dash and the javelin. McCullah placed fifth in the 200 meter dash. She was a member of RIC's first place finishing 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 meter relay squads.

Mindy Roczynski continued her dominance in the high jump, placing first overall in that event. Roczynski was named All-Alliance/Little East in the high jump, an honor she also received during the indoor season.

Jackie Horlbogen was named All-Alliance/Little East in four events, placing fifth in the 100 meter dash and sixth in the 200 meter dash. Horlbogen was also a member of RIC's first place finishing 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 meter relay squads.



# RIC alumna sings her way to the top of Christian music chart

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

**T**he envelope, please... And the winner Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year and Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year...Avalon!

Rhode Island College alumna Cherie Paliotta, formerly of Johnston, one of four members of the Christian music group, Avalon, couldn't have been more happy or excited.

"Any nomination is an honor, but to receive six (including Artist of the Year) was overwhelming. I just feel so blessed lately."

The national honors were announced at the 30th Annual Dove Awards (which is to Christian music what the Grammy awards are to pop) in Nashville, Tenn., March 24.

Last year, the group was named the 1998 New Artist of the Year at the Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, and its single, "Testify to Love" held the No. 1 position at the top of the Christian music chart for a record six consecutive weeks and was recently used as a centerpiece of an episode of television's *Touched By An Angel* featuring Wynonna.

For Paliotta, a music education grad from the Class of 1994, it has been a dizzying rise from local church choir singer to a member of the most popular vocal group in contemporary Christian music today.

A daughter of Ron and Cheryl Paliotta, who still reside in Johnston, along with younger sister Kathy, Cherie says she started singing at age 2 "but my mother says I started singing in the womb."

When she was 13 she started singing with a group called The Sojourners which featured her uncle, Ron Termale.

## Only for a year

"I only did that for a year, but we did cut an album. That's how I got my start in Rhode Island," says Paliotta.

Of course, in the years in between and ever since, the mezzo-soprano has been singing in one church choir or another, the latest being the New Life Worship Center in Smithfield "whenever I'm in town."

Paliotta sang in the RIC Choir all four of her years at the College and was the front singer for the RIC Jazz Band as well. Off and on over the years in Rhode Island she also sang at weddings and private parties.

After her graduation from RIC, she taught music in Westerly for a spell and then went to Nashville, Tenn., and landed a job singing with a group called Soul'd Out.

With her reputation growing by leaps and bounds, it didn't take long before she was invited to join the group, Avalon, replacing singer Nikki Hassman, who left to pursue a solo career.

That was 10 months ago and ever since it's been one performance after another — usually three or four per-

formances a week in three or four separate cities. Their bookings are handled by the big-league William Morris Agency.

In the United States, contemporary Christian music is big in states like Texas, Tennessee, North

Carolina, Florida and generally across the South. "We have music that sounds just like pop only with Christian lyrics. I'm not ashamed to say that I'm really proud of the way God is using us," she says.

The album she refers to is called



**AVALON, the most popular vocal group in contemporary Christian music, consists of (from left) Janna Potter, Michael Passons, Jody McBrayer and RIC's Cherie Paliotta.**

Carolina, Florida and generally across the South.

"There's a whole world of Christian music that people in New England are not familiar with," says Paliotta.

**"We have music that sounds just like pop only with Christian lyrics. I'm not ashamed to say that I'm really proud of the way God is using us." — Paliotta**

"We're really big in Canada. We had three sold-out shows in three far-out sites there recently," she says, adding that the group will go to Brazil to perform in June.

Avalon's music has drawn comparisons to everything from ABBA, the world-famous group from Sweden a few years back, to Backstreet Boys "proving that hooky pop, big vocals and strong imaging can go a long, long way," observed the Music, Faith and Culture publication CCM.

## Dance-pop sound

"They are Christian music's answer to ABBA except they aren't Swedish and they don't sing tunes to some dude named Fernando nor to dancing queens. Both groups are boy-girl, boy-girl, both groups sport trendy duds and an energetic dance-pop sound...and both groups have somewhat esoteric names beginning with the letter A," CCM continued.

Paliotta says, "It's positive music and up-lifting. Not all Jesus-in-your-face. It's alternative music and good for young people."

With such similarities to mainstream pop music, it comes as no surprise that Avalon is pondering a cross over.

"We hope to go mainstream by this

summer," she confirms. "Now we play to a Christian radio audience. We'd really love to spill over to stations like Lite 105 in Providence and there's a few songs in our (latest) album that could go either way."

Members of the group, aside from Paliotta, are Jody McBrayer, Janna Potter and Michael Passons.

The group taped "Avalon Live At The Factory" before a live audience in March in Franklin, Tenn. It features the vocal group performing songs from its three recordings as well as the broadcast debut of its music video, "In Not Of." Air dates over PAX TV were in April and on May 7.

## Dove Awards

The 1999 Dove Awards aired in syndication across the country in late March-early April (locally it was on Channel 5 in Boston on March 28) with Avalon opening the telecast with its "Testify To Love" award-winning single.

What does the future hold for Cherie Paliotta?

"I want to continue to sing professionally and make records," she says, adding that by doing this she makes "a pretty good living — but I'm not a millionaire."

She says, however, that her income "is climbing" what with unit sales of 20,000 one week alone at the end of March. In Rhode Island, Avalon's albums can be found at Charisma in Pawtucket, Christian Expressions in Johnston, Joyful Sound in Warwick and at Walmart.

Her home base these days is an apartment in Brentwood, Tenn., but she gets to her parents' home "as much as I can," coming home for every holiday "and in between. I'm very family oriented."

She considers her college experience at RIC "a pleasant one" and "a lot of work" but it did instill in her a desire to — someday — go back into teaching again.

She assures, "I'd love to bring my performance experience into the classroom."

*In a Different Light*. It was released March 23, marking Avalon's third recording and the follow-up to its 1997 recording, *A Maze of Grace*, which reached the No. 1 position on the Billboard Christian sales chart

## Ribbon cutting

Continued from page 1

MJSA Certification of Competency. They may also choose to continue their education and pursue a fine arts degree.

In addition to RIC and MJSA, the facility is supported by grants from the Rhode Island Economic Policy Council and the Human Resources Investment Council to bolster the jewelry industry in Southern New England.

Approximately, 25 percent of the manufacturing jobs in Rhode Island are jewelry-related, and currently no local manufacturing program exists to support the industry through continuing education.

"This is a prime time to begin cross-training veteran manufacturing workers and creating school-to-career opportunities," said David Doll, MJSA program manager. "It makes sense for the region, and it makes sense for the jewelry industry

as a whole."

Overseas trade opportunities are expected to increase substantially when certain Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperative (APEC) nations, including China, attempt to join the World Trade Organization in December. "When trade barriers come down, we will need a workforce to support a manufacturing boom," said Marquart. "Locally, and nationally, we need to be prepared. "The training facility at RIC will be a prototype for similar training programs throughout the country. With the involvement of MJSA, other states have already begun to duplicate the program, including California and New York, he said.

For more information, contact Clare Eckert at RIC, 401-456-8090, or David Doll at MJSA, 800-444-MJSA, ext. 3041.

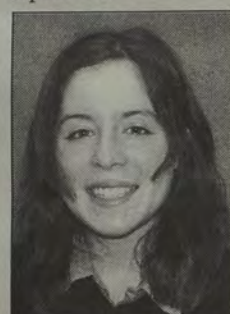


## Junior history major wins Shinn grant

by George LaTour  
What's News Associate Editor

Jennifer Courtney of Providence and formerly of California, a junior history major with minor studies in Spanish, is this year's winner of a grant from the Shinn Study Abroad Fund which she will use to spend a semester in Spain studying Spanish.

Her selection was announced at the reception following the matinee performance of *Cabaret* Saturday, April 24.



Despite her choice to take intensive Spanish language study in both Barcelona and Valencia, Courtney's real interest is history. Currently she is studying

Spanish labor history at RIC and hopes someday after gaining both a masters degree and PhD to teach European history at the college level.

For her post-graduate studies, she would like to return to California — "I kind of grew up there" — and attend the University of California in San Diego.

She will leave Aug. 8 to fly to Barcelona. She will spend the fall semester in Barcelona and in Valencia where she will study at the Institute of Spanish Studies.

Courtney is a daughter of Richard and Michaelene Courtney of Kodiak, Alaska. She has two sisters, one older and one younger, both of whom are in college in South Dakota. Her father, retired from the military, currently works for the National Weather Service.

Courtney's mother is originally from East Greenwich. Her grandparents, William and Elizabeth Stearns, reside in Coventry.

Courtney gets to see her parents in Alaska a couple of times a year.

She has never been abroad before, but with a Dad in the military all those years, she's been all over the continental United States and, of course, to Alaska. She moved to Rhode Island four years ago.

At RIC, she has been active in Student Community Government and has worked in the Alumni Office for the past two and half years, helping with fund raising.

Ellie O'Neill, director of Alumni Affairs, is happy about Courtney's selection by the Shinn Fund but says, "I'll hate to lose her. She's a delightful person and a real worker."

Courtney will return to RIC to finish up her undergraduate education before heading to California.

The Shinn Fund, held within the RIC Foundation, provides income to support undergraduate students in planned study outside the United States. Established in the 1987-88 academic year by Professor Shinn through the support of many of his friends, colleagues and former students, it annually names one or two students as recipients. Courtney is the only winner this year.

## Music majors receive Rita V. Bicho Memorial scholarships



**MUSICAL SCHOLARS:** Scholarships of \$800 each were awarded to four music majors during the 21st Annual Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship Concert May 3 in Roberts Hall auditorium. The awards are made from the Bicho Family Endowment established in memory of Rita and her sister Mary, both of whom were teachers of music. From left are: Jacob Stott (for keyboard), Wendy Rios (strings), Dominique Doiron (voice) and Patricia Bentley (woodwind, brass and percussion). All are juniors. At right is Prof. Robert Elam, music executive/assistant chair of Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## RIC-led performance to benefit MS victim

A one-time-only performance of an original play by veteran Trinity Rep actor and writer Ricardo Pitts-Wiley will be staged Wednesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Theatre at Trinity Rep, the proceeds of which will go to support the medical expenses of a multiple sclerosis victim, LaDawna Jones.

Jones is the sister of Alonzo Jones of Providence, a Rhode Island College graduate, Class of 1997, who studied communications and theatre. In his senior year he portrayed the king in *The King and I* by RIC Theatre.

He and his mother, Iona, are spearheading the efforts to produce the play, which features gratis per-

formances by 31 artists.

Many of the performers, including Jones and RIC alumni Eric and Jennifer Mudge Tucker, have RIC connections.

The play, *Night and Shakespeare*, is described as a musical celebration of the night and the freedom that it brings. It is a collection of poems and songs dealing with "night themes" such as love, pain, loneliness and the fear of lacking the courage of your convictions, says Jones.

Tickets are \$20; \$15 for students, senior citizens or the disabled and \$50 for patrons (priority seating) and can be purchased at the box office or by calling Trinity at 351-4242.

## Annual Senior Show at Bannister Gallery May 13-22

The annual Senior Show, a juried exhibition highlighting the work of seniors graduating from the College's Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts programs, will be held in Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery May 13-22.

The opening is May 13 at 7 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The show features works from all Department of Art studios, including ceramics, design, drawing, fibers, metals, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

Hours for the gallery, located in the RIC Art Center, are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9. For more information, call Dennis O'Malley, gallery director, at 456-9765.



**FORMAN THEATRE SCHOLAR:** The Helen and Sylvan Forman Theatre Scholarship was presented to Michael Roderick, Class of 2000, on April 22 in Roberts Hall auditorium during the intermission for *Cabaret*. Above, from left are Prof. P. William Hutchinson, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance; Helen Forman, Class of 1934; and Roderick. (What's News Photo by Marguerite Brown)

## Registration begins for two-week SummerArt camp

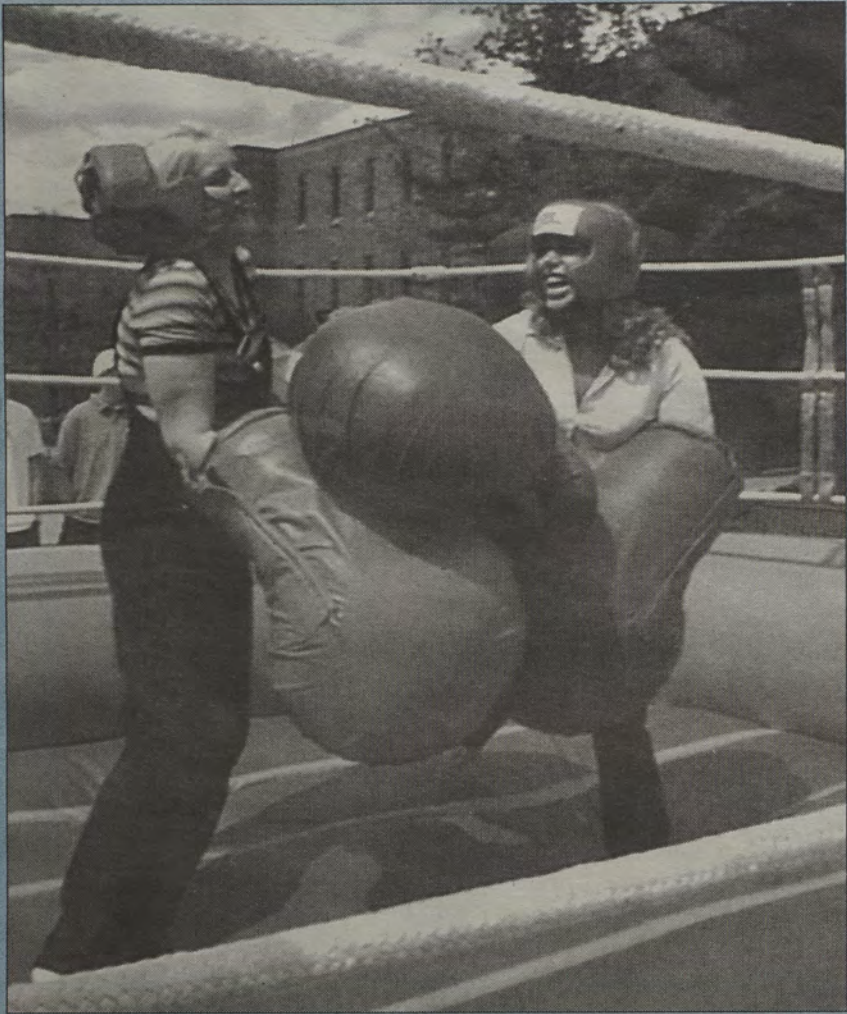
The Rhode Island College SummerArt Program, a mini-art camp for children ages 5-15, is currently accepting registrations. Classes are designed to provide a fun, relaxed environment for children to satisfy their creative energies.

This year the program will run from July 12-22, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Classes will be held in mixed media, sculpture and drawing.

Fees for the two-week program are \$165. Registration deadline is June 26. Early enrollment is recommended as class size is limited. Brochures and registration information are available in the art department, 456-8054.



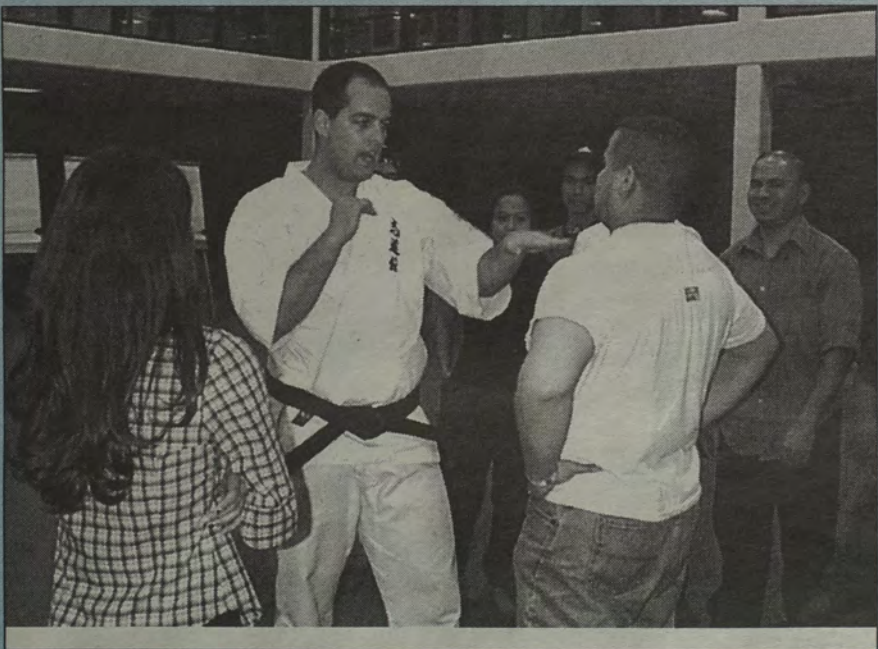
# Getting into the swing of spring



**PUTTING ON THE GLOVES:** Heidi Jordan (left) and Emily Spritz box in an inflatable ring during RIC End '99 activities April 28. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



**SWEET TREAT:** Senior Marwa Bahgat makes herself a sundae on the esplanade April 28. The distribution of free ice cream was part of RIC End '99 activities. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)



**SELF-DEFENSE:** Rob Catallozzi gives a martial arts demonstration in the Student Union ballroom on April 20. Catallozzi, who holds a 2nd degree black belt in karate, is an instructor at Ichiban Karate in Wakefield. His visit was sponsored by the Asian Student Organization and was one of several events in celebration of Asian Week. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

## Sports Events

Baseball		
May 11	Little East Conference Playoff	TBA
May 14	Little East Conference Championships	TBA
May 15	Little East Conference Championships	TBA

**Notice of Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination**  
Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/preference, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.